3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

while the cost of living had risen during the same period by more than 400 per cent. This state of affairs applied not only to the top ranks, but to those with salaries of less than 1,000 schillings a month, who were therefore in lower-income groups than many wage-earners who had been adequately cared for by the Price–Wage Agreements.

Two examples will illustrate the position of certain highly qualified groups in industry and the professions.

The discrimination against some salaried industrial employees with most valuable technical qualifications has been carried to foolhardy lengths, especially in the nationalized industries, and has aroused the indignation of enlightened managers and directors, whose political opinions put their loyalty to the principle of nationalization beyond question. In one of Austria's greatest industrial enterprises the engineer in charge of the main productive process, who has saved the management millions of schillings a year by his technical knowledge and initiative, was earning less in 1952 than a number of his own labourers. Were such a man to emigrate even to Western Germany he could easily obtain many times his present salary. He is only prevented from doing so by patriotic sentiment, interest in his work, or sheer lack of money to cover the cost of moving. But Austria's need of such men is as great as any country's in the world.

A second example is provided by the case of the 'guest doctors' in Austrian hospitals. The title was given to newly-qualified doctors in need of experience, who were employed by hospitals without any remuneration. This form of exploitation was possible owing to the large number of medical students, but in the many cases where the 'guests' played an essential role in the running of the hospitals it was quite inexcusable. In 1947 there were several hundred 'guest doctors' in Vienna, and by the summer of 1951 the number had risen to 700. The salaries received by young doctors were at best very low, and as a result there was a tendency for some of the ablest of them to emigrate. The loss of outstanding talent in this way is especially damaging to a country whose capital in

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

759 the past has had a great reputation as a centre of medical studies.

During the last two or three years an increasing number of Austrians, belonging to both the main political parties, have become aware of the danger of these developments, and certain palliative measures have been taken on a piecemeal basis.

759 In 1950 the salaries of qualified medical assistants were raised from the miserable scale of 200 to 300 schillings ($9.36 465 to $14.04) a month to the still quite inadequate scale of 310 to 390 schillings a month, and very small extra payments were made for night work. In the summer of 1951, as a result of determined protests and a public demonstration by the 'guest doctors', the Minister of Finance agreed to fifty of them being taken on as paid medical assistants in Viennese hospitals.

875 University professors were given allowances for the pur-
465 chase of books and certain minor concessions regarding taxation. Lecturers obtained research allowances of 165 schillings a month. And in connexion with the Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck special accommodation was built to relieve the housing shortage from which many professors were suffering. Since the War students' fees at Austrian universities have been extremely low and until recently averaged between 160 and 200 schillings a year. To increase the normal remuneration of the professors, the Government agreed in the autumn of 1952 that the fees should be trebled, and, in deference to the students' protests, undertook temporarily to bear the whole cost, until a final settlement could be negotiated for the following summer semester. Yet, in spite of these various measures, the net salary scale for professors at the beginning of 1953 ranged from 4,530 to 2,255 schillings ($212.08 to $105.57) a month. The net monthly salaries of school-teachers varied between 2,561 and 1,079 schillings ($119.89 to $50.51).

647 As has been seen, the Fifth Price–Wage Agreement improved
465 the position of the administrative civil servants. By the summer of 1951 the cost of living had risen by over 470 per cent since 1946. The civil servants asked that their salaries